

Arrests in Pajaro expected to slow Watsonville drug trade

By JENNIFER SASSEEN
STAFF WRITER

The Pajaro drug bust that led to six arrests and the largest heroin seizure ever for Santa Cruz County narcotics agents Thursday night is expected to be felt the most by the Watsonville drug trade.

"This arrest probably impacts Watsonville more than any other area," said Mike Calvert, commander of the Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team.

Most visitors to the house at 1515 San Juan Road were observed heading toward Watsonville after leaving, Calvert said, and two of the six people arrested were Watsonville residents believed to be major dealers in the city — Gonzalez Gutierrez Diaz, 34, of 129 Sixth St., No. 3, and Martin Jose Del Rosario, 29, of 18-A Bent Tree Court.

Bail for the two men was set at \$1 million each. Charges included possession of cocaine, heroin and marijuana for sale, possession of illegal firearms and conspiracy charges.

Calvert said the house had been rented about eight months ago. Also arrested in the raid were Alfredo M. Quiros, 41, and Sijefredo Hernandez, 21, both of the San Juan Road address, and Luis Del Rosario, 25, of 18-A Bent Tree Court and Martha Laura Contreras, 19, of 248 Williams Road, Salinas. According to booking reports, each of the four was charged with being in a place where drugs are used.

Agents seized 1.5 kilos of heroin with a street value of \$500,000 from the residence, as well as \$18,000 worth of cocaine, \$2,000 worth of Mexican marijuana, \$75,100 in cash, 16 guns, including a fully automatic machine pistol, and two vehicles believed to have been used in the drug trade.

"We feel that this was a major supplier of heroin in Watsonville," Calvert said.

He said the operation was a fairly sophisticated one, and that the dealers had mounted a surveillance camera on the roof that revealed people approaching the house on a monitor in a bedroom.

"It'll have a significant impact," Watsonville police Capt. Chuck Carter said of the raid. "These people are major dealers in our area."



Chip Scheuer

Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team Commander Mike Calvert, left, and Watsonville Police Capt. Chuck Carter say the heroin seized at Thursday's raid was headed for Watsonville. Cocaine, marijuana, money and guns were also confiscated.

However, the impact of the bust probably won't last long, and there could be other dealers just as big, distributing drugs in the area, Calvert and Carter conceded at a press conference yesterday at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

"There always seems to, unfortunately, be someone to fill in and take their place," Carter said.

Carter said the five-month

investigation that culminated in Thursday's raid was initiated by a Watsonville police officer who is a member of CNET, the narcotics agency that includes people from all of Santa Cruz County's law-enforcement agencies.

The Watsonville police officer was involved in a raid several months ago on two Ford Street addresses, Carter said. Diaz, one of the men arrested

Thursday night and booked on \$1 million bail, was also arrested in the Ford Street incident on drug charges. Carter said records seized in that raid started an investigation that led to Thursday's raid.

Calvert said agents found drugs hidden throughout the San Juan Road home. Heroin was found hidden under the

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REFERENCE

WATSONVILLE
REGISTER-Pajaronian
September 23, 1989

roots of plants in pots and under insulation in the attic; cocaine was found inside shoes, clothes and air vents; and the marijuana was discovered in a closet.

"It was hidden very well," Calvert said. "It took about four hours to search a small, two-bedroom house."

The majority of the cash was found in a fast-food bag in a dresser drawer and about \$10,000 was found in a box under the bed.

Carter said a framed \$1,000 bill was also found in the house.

"Most businessmen frame their first \$1 bill," he said.

While the occupants' lifestyle did not appear to be what he would call lavish, Calvert said, "there were a lot of what we would term 'toys' — VCRs and nice televisions — in the house."

The operation was believed to be a pipeline for drugs arriving from Mexico, Calvert said, and at least some of the people arrested are believed to be illegal aliens.